

Communism and democracy ...

Aḥmad, Bashīruddīn Maḥmūd, 1889-1965.

Washington, D.C. : The American Mosque, The Ahmadiyya movement in Islam, [1950]

<https://hdl.handle.net/2027/nnc2.ark:/13960/s2bhd6g7bgz>

HathiTrust



www.hathitrust.org

Public Domain in the United States

http://www.hathitrust.org/access_use#pd-us

We have determined this work to be in the public domain in the United States of America. It may not be in the public domain in other countries. Copies are provided as a preservation service. Particularly outside of the United States, persons receiving copies should make appropriate efforts to determine the copyright status of the work in their country and use the work accordingly. It is possible that current copyright holders, heirs or the estate of the authors of individual portions of the work, such as illustrations or photographs, assert copyrights over these portions. Depending on the nature of subsequent use that is made, additional rights may need to be obtained independently of anything we can address.

13m
Commun.

COMMUNISM and DEMOCRACY

(THIRD OF THE SERIES)

by

HAZRAT MIRZA
BASHIRUDDIN MAHMUD AHMAD

*Head Of The Ahmadiyya Movement In
Islam*

(Rabwah, Pakistan)

THE AHMADIYYA MOVEMENT IN ISLAM

The American Fazl Mosque
2141 Leroy Place, N. W.
Washington, D. C.
U. S. A.

COMMUNISM AND DEMOCRACY

(III)

I have already written two pamphlets on the subject of Communism and Democracy. In my second pamphlet I had quoted some Biblical references to show that Communism is, in reality, a movement against religion and that prophecies are to be found about it in the Bible. I had promised in that pamphlet that in my next treatise on this subject I will deal with the prophecies that are to be found in Islamic religious literature about Communism. I, however, regret to say that I could not implement my promise as early as I had expected, because my illness and the circumstances over which I had no control delayed the fulfilment of my promise. But I think that this delay has occurred in pursuance of God's own plan, because during the interval circumstances have come into being which have all the more substantiated and corroborated the prophecies of the Bible, the Quran and the Hadith in this regard.

In my second treatise I had quoted prophecies from the Bible to show that Communism will gather great force in the Middle East. At the time when the above two pamphlets were published, no signs were in evidence of that force but during the intervening period circumstances have arisen which show unmistakable signs of social as well as political penetration of Communism in the Middle East. Therefore I hope that the reader will now understand better, not only what I have already written on this subject but also what I am going to write now.

PROPHECIES ABOUT COMMUNISM IN THE HOLY QURAN

Before, however, I deal with the prophecies about Communism which are to be found in the Quran and the Hadith I wish to make it clear that two distinct beings have found special mention in Islamic literature in connection with the spiritual and political disasters which Islam was to suffer in the Latter Days. One of these two beings has been called the *Dajjal* (Anti-Christ) and of the other being two manifestations have been mentioned. One of these two manifestations has been given the name of Gog and the other that of Magog. A deeper reflection, however, reveals the fact that both these calamities that were to befall Islam in particular and mankind in general bear a close resemblance to each other and that they are the ramifications of one and the same mischief. This is why Gog and Magog have

found mention in the Quran but not the *Dajjal* by name, while the Holy Prophet Muhammad is reported to have said that there never lived a prophet who did not warn his followers against the *Dajjal*. In view of such grave warning by the Holy Prophet it was impossible that the Quran should have been devoid of all mention of the *Dajjal*. Thus the absence of such mention in the Quran clearly shows that, in reality, the *Dajjal* and Gog-Magog are two names of the same being or that both are offshoots of the same mischief. This conclusion receives added corroboration from the sayings of the Holy Prophet Muhammad which tell us that the time of the *Dajjal* and that of Gog-Magog is the same and that both will dominate the entire world. It becomes quite clear from these facts that the *Dajjal* and Gog-Magog are not two separate calamities belonging to separate periods but are only two different aspects of the same calamity, only with the difference that whereas Gog-Magog represents the political aspect of this great mischief the *Dajjal* represents its religious and cultural aspect; the word *Dajjal* itself meaning a fraud and a deceiver.

So the mischief of the Latter Days regarding which the Israelite Prophets had warned their followers had two parts: one part concerned corruption in religious doctrines and ideas and the other related to political conditions and the destruction of the peace and prosperity of the world. The being that was to incite and foment the mischief concerning religious beliefs was given the name of *Dajjal*, i.e., the deceiving and cheating spirit, and the being that was to foster and foment the mischief concerning political conditions was called Gog-Magog. The Arabic words for Gog and Magog are derived from the same root, *Ajj*, which means fire. This means that Gog and Magog will be very powerful nations and that they will gain predominance over the whole world through their fire-arms.

It has been further stated that the political mischief will make its appearance in two parts and we are told that this mischief will rise not only against Islam but that non-Muslim countries also will become divided into two hostile camps and discord and conflict will reign supreme among them.

After these explanatory remarks I begin to deal with the Quranic prophecies about Gog and Magog. The Quran says that up to a time Gog and Magog will remain confined in the corners of the earth. Then the wall that would have held them in check will collapse, i.e., Islam will lose its glory and its political power will break. Its spiritual influence

will also decline and Muslims will consign their religion to oblivion. In the Chapter "*Al-Sajdah*" of the Quran we have been told that a thousand years after the Holy Prophet Islam will begin to ascend back to the heavens. i.e., the spiritual hold of Islam over the minds of its followers will weaken and the dangerous forces that were to destroy the peace of the world and to shake the foundation of religious beliefs, will begin to make their appearance. Analogous references in this connection are to be found in the Bible also. The Bible says:

"When the thousand years are expired, Satan shall be loosed out of his prison. And shall go out to deceive the nations which are in the four quarters of the earth, Gog and Magog, to gather them together to battle; the number of whom is as the sand of the sea." (*Rev. 20:7, 8*).

In this quotation "the thousand years" mean the thousand years after the advent of the promised prophet i.e., the Holy Prophet of Islam. This period coincides with the end of the sixteenth and the beginning of the seventeenth century of the Christian Era. The Quran has shed light on the above passage of the Bible by declaring that by "the thousand years" are meant the thousand years after the Holy Prophet and not after Jesus Christ. The actual course of events also has substantiated the Quranic statement, because a thousand years after Jesus no catastrophic changes to which this prophecy may legitimately be applied took place in the religious or political sphere. Again, the Quran states that Gog and Magog will be the nations that, at the promised time descending from the mountains and sailing over the waves of the seas, will spread into the plains of Asia and will dominate the entire world (21:97).

Similarly in the Chapter "*Al-Kahf*" in the Quran we are told that in the Latter Days both Gog and Magog will make great material progress and acquire great prosperity and will grow jealous of each other and consequently will become involved in a great armed conflict. They will pour down fire over each other from the skies and will become the means and instrument of each other's destruction. They will be great industrial nations and will make wonderful inventions but they will have no place in their hearts for God and religion and on account of their irreligion their material progress and scientific advance will prove of no avail to them and will not save them from ruin. (18:90-98).

PROPHECIES APPLY TO PRESENT TIMES

All these prophecies quite fittingly apply to the present times. The decline of the political power of Islam commenced in the beginning of the seventeenth century after which started the tug-of-war among Western Nations for political supremacy in the world. Science made great progress and materialism and philosophy attacked religion resulting in the complete collapse of the latter. By pursuing them to their pure logical conclusions materialism presented the world's economic changes in such amazing forms that the world was simply wonder-struck. Communism is one of these materialistic interpretations of history. I simply cannot understand that by ignoring God, the sole Creator of man, and by ignoring the Divine order governing the universe, mankind can accept anything save Communism or Nazism as a philosophy of life. By renouncing God and divine teaching we shall have either to admit that all men are equal in every respect and therefore all amenities of life should be equally divided among them by force. Or we shall have to admit that Might is right and that power is the real thing in the world and that he alone is really capable and that he alone is deserving of the blessings and comforts of life who is in possession of it. What other ideology besides these two can unaided human reason legitimately present? It is religion alone which by the help of moral ideas and the idea of God presents a wholesome via-media, otherwise simple, unaided human reason can accept nothing beside these two materialistic philosophies.

The Quran agrees with the Bible in the fact that enmity and jealousy between Gog and Magog will bring about an armed conflict between them in the Latter Days and that they will make free use of fire-arms against each other. The Quran also tells us that as far as their political ideologies are concerned both these peoples will meet their end in that conflict and neither of them will be able to maintain its existence for long after it.

As I have said above, the Hadith divides the conflict of the Latter Days into two parts, one concerning religion and the other politics. It appears from the traditions that the Jews will join the *Dajjal* in large numbers and that at that time they will enjoy great predominance in scientific research and will make great inventions and discoveries. (*Ibn Asakir* with reference to *Kanzul Ummal* on margin of page 56, *Musnad Ahmad Bin Hanbal* Vol. 6, and *Abu Nuaim* with reference to *Kanz*, Vol. 6, p. 49)

Again it is written that the influence and power of the *Dajjal* will be felt specially in and around Isphahan and that he will draw people to himself by playing upon their fear and greed. Those who will win his pleasure will appear to be the gainers. But in the sight of God they will be the losers and deserving of punishment, while those who will spurn worldly benefits and will oppose him will be the recipients of divine favor (*Muslim* and *Abmad* and *Tabarani* as quoted by *Kanzul Ummal*, Vol. 6, pp. 40, 41).

It is also related in the Hadith that whereas the *Dajjal* will be a great expert in the material sciences he will be completely devoid of all knowledge of the spiritual sciences. His adeptness and proficiency in material sciences will be so great that he will claim to possess control even over life and death. This means that the *Dajjal* will possess extraordinary powers. Or the allusion in the Hadith is to the great modern advances in surgery and medicine. It will be generally believed at that time that he who will win the favor of the *Dajjal* will become successful in life and he who will antagonize him will be ruined (*Mustadrak* as quoted by *Kanzul Ummal* on the margin of *Musnad Ahmad* Vol. 6, p. 46).

It is also recorded in the Hadith that the influence of the *Dajjal* will spread all over the world with the exception of Mecca and Medina which two towns will remain immune from his influence and it is also stated that the Chinese peoples will join him (*Tirmidhi* as quoted by *Kanzul Ummal*, Vol. 6, p. 58). Similarly it is mentioned in *Tirmidhi* that the *Dajjal* will appear in the east of Arabia and *Bukhari* says that the forehead of the *Dajjal* will have the word "*Kafir*" (i. e. unbeliever) inscribed upon it. This signifies that all his sciences will be completely devoid of the influence of religion and that all his researches will be directed towards attacking religion. *Muslim* further states that though the mischief of the *Dajjal* will be great yet ultimately Islam will prevail over it and once more God will bestow prestige and honor upon the Muslims (*Muslim* and its *Commentary* by *Nawawi*, Vol. 2, p. 393).

Similarly it is recorded in the Hadith that in the time of the *Dajjal* some days will be of one year's duration, some of one month's duration, while some other days will be of one week's length. Most days, however, will be like the ordinary days of the week. This tradition implied that the rule and dominion of the *Dajjal* will extend over the entire world.

The North and the South Poles will also be under his possession. His dominion will thus extend to regions where there will be day all the time while over other places under him there will be perpetual night. There will be places under his rule where the sun will shine continuously for a whole month, and places where darkness will reign continuously for the same period. There will be places under his possession where there will be light for a whole week while other regions will remain dark for a whole week (*Muslim with its Commentary* by Nawawi, Vol. 2, pp. 401-402). In short, the dominion and the rule of the *Dajjal* will cover all parts of the world. He will produce artificial rain and will make inventions that will increase tillage. The size of fruit and that of ears of corn will grow larger. His opponents will be reduced to poverty and he will dig out mines in large numbers. (*Ibid.*)

It is also related in the Hadith that the Messiah will appear after the glory and prosperity of the *Dajjal* will have reached its zenith and that he will fight him but not with the sword of steel but with his spiritual weapons and with missionary activities. The Messiah will rise in the East. (*Ibid.*) The *Dajjal* will then disappear and Gog and Magog will take his place. This means that the calamity that was to befall humanity in the form of the *Dajjal* will give place to the calamity in the form of Gog and Magog and that as a result of this change attacks on religion will decrease and political differences will increase. Nations living in northern and western regions will begin to form themselves into opposite camps and their material and military power will grow to such an extent that the followers of Islam will find it quite impossible to offer them any effective opposition. The Messiah and his followers, however, will carry on their missionary work with zeal and prayer. Gog and Magog will fight each other to death. Destruction and ruin will also overtake them in the form of bombs, plague and other similar diseases. God will restore to religion its old power and glory and will, as it were, say to the world, "Let thy blessing return to thee." Consequently even scarcity of provisions will satisfy the needs of the people. Greed will disappear from the world and there will be a general inclination towards spiritual matters in place of materialism, till at last the Messianic Era will come to an end and the Last Day will come upon the world (knowledge of which rests with God alone). It also appears from the Hadith that

shells will be fired from the sky upon the earth and from the earth towards the sky, the allusion in the above Hadith being to air bombardment and the anti-aircraft guns (*Muslim* and its *Commentary* by Nawawi, Vol. 2, p. 402).

We are also told that the *Dajjal* will come from the direction of Isphahan—from the side of a town called Ashqabad (Ashqabad is a town in the Russian territory of Bukhara which adjoins Iran. It is spelt as Istaqabaz in the relevant tradition). Similarly, it is stated that the people of Tobolsk, Tarsus and Moscow will join Gog and Magog (*Baibaqi* as quoted by *Kanzul Ummal*, Vol. 6, p. 58). Again it is related in the Hadith that in the Latter Days a fierce fight will take place between the Jews and Muslims and eventually God will give victory to the latter (*Muslim* as quoted by *Mishqat* Vol. 2, p. 169). It is also recorded that at that time the condition of Muslims compared to that of the Western Powers will be like that of one man against a thousand persons. (*Bukhari* and *Muslim* as quoted by *Mishkat*, Vol. 2, p. 183). This means that the Muslims will have become extremely weak at that time.

A GRAPHIC PICTURE OF PRESENT TIMES FORETOLD

From the Quranic references and the sayings of the Holy Prophet quoted above the following facts emerge quite clearly. In the Latter Days, a period commencing with the beginning of the seventeenth century, Islam will become extremely weak and non-Muslim nations will begin to make great progress and gain great strength. At first attacks will be made upon Islam as a religion and scientific works will be written in a style and language calculated to injure Islam and to lower it in the estimation of Muslims and weaken their attachment and respect for it. This anti-Islamic attitude will gradually develop into a complete antithesis of religion. Religion at last will be completely disowned and belief in the existence of God and in the Last Day will be denied. This movement later on will become split up into two parts—religious and political, the political part becoming further divided into two more sections. The movement will gather such strength and acquire such prestige and power that its adherents will control the seas and the mountains and even the North and the South Poles will come under their sway. The Jews will join this movement in large numbers. Science will make great progress. The scientists will make such big claims as to assert that they

could cause rain to fall from the clouds and cure dangerous diseases hitherto believed to be incurable and fatal. The Muslims will become extremely weak and helpless. By fighting against these powerful movements Muslim kingdoms will break into pieces. Aircraft and anti-aircraft weapons will be invented. A part of this movement will be particularly directed against the Middle East. It will make its appearance in the East and with Iran as its base will continue its penetration further. From Ashqabad to Isphahan and from Isphahan to Khurasan it will try to spread its tentacles towards the countries of the Middle East till at last coming into clash with its political counterpart—Western Democracy—it will be destroyed and the era of the glory and progress of Muslims will begin again. In the final conflict the Jews also will lose their power and prestige and they will be reduced to the same sad state from which they will have risen in that revolutionary period.

It is quite clear that the above mentioned prophecies of the Quran and the Hadith have foretold many things which have not been mentioned by the Bible. The Bible, for example, does not mention that this movement will begin in the seventeenth century and that later on it will split into two parts and that one part will appear against Islam in the form of a religious movement but eventually will become opposed to all religions and the other part, beginning as a political movement against Islam, will become further split up into two sections which will start fighting each other. It also does not appear from the Bible that this movement will spread over the entire world and will exercise control over mountains and seas so much so that even the North and the South Poles will come under its sway. The Bible does neither state that the Jews will take a prominent part in this movement and for that reason will one day be successful in establishing their own kingdom nor that industry and science will make great advance at that time and that progress in agriculture will be so marked that fruit and seeds will develop larger size and that aeroplanes and anti-tank guns will be invented and that means will be discovered to cause rainfall.

These signs clearly indicate the time, aspirations, and the power and force of Communism as well as the intentions, the power and prestige of Western Democracy. It seems that the Quran and the Hadith have presented a most graphic picture of the present times. These prophecies show that as a result of the war that is imminent between

Communism and Western Democracy the latter will lose much of its strength but greater destruction will overtake the anti-God and anti-religion movement i. e. Communism.

It also appears from the Quran and the Hadith that Islam will spread among the Western nations and that through it they will get a new life. As far as their hatred for Islam, both Communism and Democracy, more or less, have been declared its equal enemies but as regards their survival complete destruction of the one movement has been foretold while the other has been promised a new life in a new form. This new life finds symbolic mention in the Hadith to the effect that in the Latter Days the sun will rise from the West. In the Quran the sun has been likened to Islam and the Holy Prophet. Thus we are told that after the fierce conflict between Communism and Western Democracy Islam will increasingly succeed in engaging the attention of the Western people. A wholesome change in their attitude will take place. Instead of the missionaries which now go out to the East to destroy Islam, missionaries from the West will go out into the world to preach and spread it. These days are yet far off, but the signs of the great change are already in evidence. The existence of large gardens yet to be laid out can well be guessed from the tiny blades of grass that grow in a place. Even today we see people coming here from the West to learn Islam. Besides an Englishman, a German and an American, a number of Chinese, Arabs, Indonesians, etc., are, at present, receiving instruction in Islam at our place of emigration—Rabwah, West Pakistan, and we have had further intimation from more persons in America, Spain and England who intend to come to us to learn Islam. The present move is but a drop in a vast ocean but this drop of today unmistakably points to the existence of the vast ocean of tomorrow. After the great anti-Islamic tide which rose in the West in the past and which threatened to engulf Islam, the present very wholesome change in the minds of the Western people is full of mighty significance. Instead of seeking to destroy Islam they come to learn Islam. This change, insignificant though it may look at present, does certainly throw some light, however weak, upon the mighty change that is destined to take place in the not very distant future.

The Holy Prophet had also prophesied that Western nations would become so powerful that compared to them Muslims would look like one

person against a thousand, just as sometime in the past the Muslims were so powerful that compared to them the non-Muslims looked like one person against a thousand. But that scene completely changed and the Muslims became very weak. Now again a great and noble son of Islam has given birth to a new spiritual progeny. Besides the prophecies of the Quran and the Holy Prophet the natural order of things itself clearly points to the fact that the present "one" will gradually increase to a thousand and the present "thousand" will gradually become reduced to "one." At present both Communism and Western Democracy are up against Islam as is evident from the political penetration of the Western Democratic Powers into Islamic countries and from the influence that Communism is striving to exert in those countries. But despite the seeming resemblance of the endeavours of both these powers there is a marked difference in their attack upon Islam. This difference consists in the fact that whereas Communism seeks to destroy the essence and spirit of Islam by trying to obliterate the very idea of God, Western Democracy, having been disappointed by the failure of its earlier religious assaults on Islam, intends now to confine its activities to political infiltration in Muslim countries. Moreover, Communism is like an adolescent youth while Western Democracy resembles a grown-up man who already has entered old age. It is evident that the evil designs of a growing youth who stands upon the threshold of full-blooded maturity certainly are much more dangerous than those of a grown-up man who is advancing towards old age, because whereas the latter had made dangerous attacks upon Islam in the past, the former seems determined to launch still more dangerous attacks in the future. A wise man will naturally endeavour to meet future-attacks rather than weep over the past ones. Every intelligent Muslim while trying to stop Western penetration into Islamic countries, will certainly regard the double assault of Communism which seeks to destroy both the religious and political power of Islam, as more serious and more dangerous than the fleeting shadow of Western Democracy which is counting the last moments of its fast vanishing influence and which after a short time will, in all seriousness extend its hand of peace towards Islam. Jewry is no doubt a sapling planted by Western Democracy but very soon the Muslims will realize that the nursing and fostering of this plant has been taken up by Communism and that the real enemy which appears to some of the Mus-

lims as a sincere friend will one day prove to be a most dangerous foe. There is a well known proverb in our language which is to the effect: "A woman who pretends to be more motherly than a mother is a cruel witch." A movement that is opposed to God, the Creator of man and the Revealer of Islam, can never be of any help to a religious minded Muslim.

DANGERS OF COMMUNISM

In reality the enmity of Western Democracy for Communism springs from only political considerations but Islam has both political and religious differences with the latter. No doubt it is the duty of a person who has faith in Western Democracy that he should be on his guard against this highly dangerous mischief of Communism but a Muslim has an even greater obligation in this respect. A believer in Western Democracy is guilty of dangerous folly if he does not alter his political views about Islam and the Muslims and he shall have bitterly to repent if he does not do so. And if the West does not give up its foolish policy of exploiting Muslim countries and maintaining by force its control over them it shall not escape the terrible consequences of its folly and, in the war that is coming, shall have to sacrifice ten lives in place of one and spend ten dollars where one would have sufficed. The Muslims also should understand and realize that Western Democracy is not face to face with such great danger from Communism as they are. Our greatest wealth is our God and His Prophet. Christianity had only literally dubbed the Prophets of the past as thieves and robbers (*John* 10:8) but Communism really regards God's great Messengers as thieves and cheats and considers the very belief in the existence of God as a fraud and deception. No true Muslim can therefore grasp the extended hand of Communism with a view to making peace with it, nor can he cut his own nose to spite the face of one whom he considers his enemy. If he does so, he is a veritable fool and does not seem to realize his great responsibility. Equally is the believer in Western Democracy, who is not prepared to change his political ideas about Islam, and is the enemy of his people and principles, and is devoid of all sense to appreciate the seriousness of the present situation. Would that before the last hour strikes the two sides should effect a real change in their views and attitude and join hands in peace and friendship! Amen.

February 12, 1952

COMMUNISM and DEMOCRACY

Some Questions Answered
(FOURTH OF THE SERIES)

by

HAZRAT MIRZA
BASHIRUDDIN MAHMUD AHMAD

*Head of the Ahmadiyya Movement in
Islam*

(Rabwah, Pakistan)

THE AHMADIYYA MOVEMENT IN ISLAM

The American Fazl Mosque

2141 Leroy Place, N. W.

Washington, D. C.

U. S. A.



COMMUNISM AND DEMOCRACY

(Some Questions Answered)

(IV)

A very prominent and highly-placed gentleman of Iran, who has been for some time a minister in the Iranian Cabinet, has asked two very interesting questions regarding my pamphlets on '*Communism and Democracy*'. As these and similar questions are likely to arise in the minds of other readers also, I wish to answer them in the present pamphlet which is the fourth of the series.

The first question of the said gentleman is: If it is a divine decree that Communism must spread, even though temporarily, over parts of the world, then would it be wise to oppose a divine decree and in such a case would opposition to Communism produce any tangible results?

There is no doubt in the fact that the Quran and the Bible do contain a warning to this effect and that the Prophets of yore also foretold through the mouth of the Holy Prophet of Islam, and through that of the Prophet Daniel and the disciples of Jesus Christ that Communism would spread over a large part of the world but they had also foretold that eventually it would suffer defeat and that humanity would be spared the baneful effects of this world-wide calamity.

It also appears from Muslim traditions that a section of the Muslim people would become involved in great hardship and misery by opposing and fighting Communism (*Kanz* on margin of *Musnad Ahmad bin Hanbal*, Vol. 6, page 46). But after suffering hardships for some time, they will receive divine help and will become safe from the permanent ill effects of this calamity; and eventually, with the help of powers and movements as foretold in the prophecies they will conquer and prevail upon it, (*Ibid*). So, while it is clear from divine scriptures that it is a divine decree that Communism should sweep a part of the world it is also a divine decree that ultimately it will suffer defeat and destruction.

Now Divine decrees are of two kinds:

(a) Decrees which operate and fulfil themselves entirely through heavenly means. It is impossible to fight and negative such decrees;

(b) Decrees which are not subject to the special will of God but to the common divine law operating

in nature. In fact, simultaneously with the latter kind of decree, there comes into force another decree which announces God's decision to man that though he may be weak, he is not to give up his fight simply because a certain movement is foretold to spread and predominate in the world. People fall sick every day. They become involved in diverse kinds of misfortunes and troubles. These things occur in pursuance of divine decrees but still we are enjoined to fight sickness and provide medical aid for the sick, and combat our miseries and misfortunes. Once the Caliph Umar was on tour in Syria when plague broke out in that country. He decided to give up the tour and return to Medina. Abu Ubaida objected to Umar's decision and told him that he was fleeing away from a decree of God. To this Umar replied that he was only fleeing from one decree of God to another decree of God, meaning that if an epidemic broke out at a place divine decree required that that place should be quitted. In this connection the detailed instructions of Islam are that the affected place should be quitted but people quitting that place should confine themselves to its outskirts and should not enter other towns. In this manner Umar brought home to Abu Ubaida the supreme truth that one divine decree could be offset by another. So, while it is decreed that Communism will gather great strength for some time, Muslims and other anti-Communist powers should continue to fight it to the bitter end and wait for the other divine decree to come into force and bring about the defeat of Communism.

It may be asked, in what conceivable manner will this opposition to Communism, during the intervening period, be of any avail to the Muslims. This objection springs from an imperfect comprehension of the whole question. No doubt divine prophecies foretell the rise to great power of Communism but nowhere is it stated in divine scriptures what particular countries or persons will become Communist. So in the absence of a prophecy as to who will and who will not succumb to this Godless philosophy, it is our duty to save as many people as possible, during this interval of the spread of Communism, and in this way to prepare and organize believers for the final conflict. This is surely a very important task.

The objection can be viewed from another angle. It is nowhere mentioned in any divine prophecy that Communism will sweep the entire world. The prophecy is that before the final splitting up of the world into two rival camps of Communism and Western

Democracy there will come into being an anti-Islamic Movement, which in Islamic religious literature has been called the *Dajjal* and that it will dominate the whole world. As regards divine prophecies about the predominance of Communism in some parts of the world it is also said that at that time some other parts will be under the influence of Western Democracy. So there is no prophecy in religious literature that Communism will predominate over the entire world. What is foretold is that only Gog and Magog of which one name refers to Communism and the other to Western Democracy will, between themselves, spread over the entire face of the earth. So there is absolutely no cause for a Muslim to lose heart and lay down his arms. He must employ all means which, according to him, will lead to the fulfillment of God's purpose.

THE SECOND QUESTION

"FIGHT AGAINST WESTERN IMPERIALISM"

The second question that has perturbed the mind of the above mentioned Iranian friend is to the following effect: If it is necessary to fight and oppose Communism, it is equally necessary to oppose and fight American, British and French Imperialisms as they are doing all they can to enslave Eastern nations and to prevent them from exploiting the natural resources of their countries. For example, see what they have done with respect to the oil industry of Iran. It is a blatant falsehood to say that the activities of these imperialistic powers spring from humanitarian considerations. In fact all this fight is for wealth. They are after money. If this is not the case, then why did America, Britain and France reject the Russian proposal at the U. N. that every country should have the right to the direct use and benefit of its wealth and capital. In reality these so-called free nations not only exploit their own peoples but seek also to bring Eastern countries under their domination in order to exploit their national wealth and resources. If the U. S. A. had supported Iran in her legitimate demand that she had the right to use and exploit her oil wells in her own interest, King Ibn-Saud would never have agreed to accept only 50 percent of the big profits which the sale of Arabian oil yields. England and France are mercilessly sucking the life blood out of the Eastern countries. This has greatly intensified national feelings in the East against these Imperialistic powers and indirectly helps Communism to spread. There is no gainsaying this incontrovertible fact.

THE ANSWER

This question of our Iranian friend is, in fact, the inevitable result of the very distressing conditions through which Iran and other Eastern countries are at present passing. Let my honorable friend remain assured that we also are opposed to the American, British or French Imperialism, as is evident from my three pamphlets entitled '*Communism and Democracy*'. In these pamphlets I have tried to bring home to these Powers that either they must effect a complete change in their attitude towards Eastern peoples or they must come to great grief. In my pamphlets, I have presented only the view that America, England and France are not anti-God, while Russia is. America is not an Imperialistic Power in the sense in which this term is generally understood. What she did in Cuba and the Philippines bears testimony to this contention of mine. She only seeks economic predominance and strives to achieve it. But no country can be compelled to accept the economic predominance of another country. If we are not fools, we can, by hard work, free ourselves from the economic assistance of those people who are no angels nor are they, like the followers of God's Prophets, prompted by humanitarian considerations but are essentially traders and businessmen and like businessmen want their money to bring them profits. It does not behove us that at first we should seek their economic help and then after having borrowed from them should begin to quarrel with them and accuse them of taking possession of the resources of our country. We should pay back their money and tell them to quit our country. We cannot afford to be false to our commitments. Our religion does not allow this.

No sensible person can be so foolish as to assert that these nations invest capital in other countries out of compassionate motives. If there lives such a person he is either a fool or a liar. These Western nations are first and foremost traders and businessmen and no sane person could think of a businessman investing money where there are no dividends. When we do business with a person we admit by that very act that he expects to earn profit by this transaction. There is no sense in asking a businessman to forego his profit. There was a time when Islam was all-powerful and Christian countries were extremely weak. Who provided these weak and poor Christian countries the opportunity to rise and prosper? We did it out of our ignorance and dishonesty. If we

had not been ignorant and dishonest, Europe even to-day would have been behind us by centuries and to us would have belonged the credit of discovering and inhabiting America. But we were disloyal to our God and our religion in the days of our greatness and glory and were disloyal to them when we became weak and poor. Instead of looking to God and developing in ourselves Godly virtues, we began to cast covetous eyes upon the wealth of those peoples who benefited from our ignorance and our negligence and broke our power and crushed our trade and shattered the foundations of our society. Is not this attitude unreasonable and unjust? We have to come to terms with these nations for the sake of God and for the sake of our self-respect.

I do not believe in an understanding which destroys our self-respect. If even today we succeed in maintaining peace and order in our countries and fully exploit the resources that God has placed in our hands we can become a great and powerful nation. In spite of being poor we try to copy wealthy nations and suffering from hunger we see dreams of leading lives of ease and luxury. Can we afford to imitate Europeans and Americans in dancing and drinking, in going to cinemas and in gambling, and racing and luxurious living, in our present state of poverty and misery? Even if we possessed the necessary wealth, these things would have been unlawful for us according to our religion. But, like apes, we seek to imitate Americans and Europeans without pausing to consider whether or not our condition and religion allow the reckless waste of national wealth to which we have become accustomed.

RESPONSIBILITY FOR OUR PRESENT MISERY

We have brought the present misery upon ourselves by our own hands. We ourselves are the architects of our evil destiny. Could Europeans or Americans sow the seeds of disunity among us? Has Europe or America inculcated in us intercommunal hatred and prejudice which is eating into the vitals of our national existence and as a result of which one Muslim sect is bent upon destroying other Muslim sects, on account of differences in interpretations of doctrines of not real importance; as is happening every day in Muslim countries? We ourselves and our *Ulema* are responsible for this deplorable state of affairs and we alone can get rid of it. While maintaining our internal religious differences we must grasp firmly the cord of unity and crush the power

of those *Ulema* who create this discord and disharmony in our ranks or else we shall meet the fate that awaits those who keep engaged in internecine quarrels. Personally I am convinced that despite our poverty we do not need American dollars and we can do without them. In 1948 when there was on foot a movement in Pakistan to borrow from America I warned my countrymen of the dreadful consequences of such a suicidal step. I told a large audience of educated Muslims in Lahore that by borrowing from America they would forge the bonds of slavery with their own hands. America is a country of businessmen. Americans would lend us money but would also demand a pound of flesh and if we exchanged American slavery for British slavery we would be digging our own grave. My speech found wide publicity in Pakistan and even in India with the result that this idea was given up. So I am not at all of the opinion that because we are poor, we need American and European help and cannot do without it. I do consider it permissible to buy arms and ammunition from America, though even this hurts my pride and feeling of self-respect. In fact by working hard day and night we should try to stand upon our own legs and fulfil our national needs. He who looks to others for help has to bow in submission to him.

THE REMEDY

I say to my honorable friend, come, let us try to create in Islamic countries a sense of unity, national pride, self-respect and self-sufficiency. We should not place ourselves in the unenviable position of first borrowing from other countries and then refusing to pay back our debts. We should try not to borrow from other countries at all. We should learn to live like the poor that we are. Let us wear old and tattered clothes, and remain satisfied with one meal a day. Let us banish wine, and close down cinema houses. Let us stop the giving and taking of interest and give up articles of ease and luxury. Not only our politics but also the minds and brains of our young men should be freed from Western domination. Then and not till then can we free ourselves from the slavery of Europe and America. The businessmen of Europe and America come to our country when they realize that we are prepared to accept their domination and that there is a vast field here for the investment of their capital and for earning good dividends. But once they realize that each and every individual of our countries will prefer death to slavery

they will not come. They are businessmen and traders. They do not want to kill us. They only need the fruits of our labor and our hard work. When they realize they can no more exploit our labor and our wealth they will cease to interfere in our political affairs and the very idea of gaining domination over us will, forever, take leave of them.

THE IRANIAN OIL PROBLEM

I quite appreciate the Iranian sentiment that income from the oil of Iran should be spent on Iran itself. But I have never been able to understand the argument that the Anglo-Iranian Oil Company should give up the oil-fields because Iranian oil has now been nationalized. If my information is correct then this company purchased the oil-fields from the Government then in power in Iran and the Iranian oil-fields were even then a national property. If at the time when the sale-deed was consummated, the oil-fields were national property and the sale was regarded as legal and proper then how could the law nationalizing the oil industry now render that sale illegal? Because the oil fields were national property when the sale was effected, therefore the present law making them national property has made no change in their status and, therefore, no new situation has arisen with regard to them. But if my information is not correct and the Anglo-Iranian Company did not buy the right of ownership of these oil-fields from the Iranian Government of the time, but purchased it from individuals who owned the land upon which the oil-fields stood, and that the Anglo-Iranian Oil Company has since been paying the share of the profits from the sale of the oil not to the Iranian Government but to the individual Iranian owners, then the enactment of the nationalization law does create a new situation and the Iranian Government rightly holds that this law has given it the ownership of the oil-fields and therefore it is justified in taking possession of them. But, as I have said above, such is not the case. I shall feel obliged if my honorable friend could enlighten me on the right position and disabuse my mind of any possible misunderstanding that I may be suffering from. Anyhow my view is based on the information which I possess about this vexed question and to which I have referred above. If my information is correct, then my view is also correct. But if I am wrongly informed then my views must also be wrong. But despite my views I am convinced that the Government of Iran and for that matter any Government in whose territory a

foreign concern does business on a scale which is likely to damage its commercial interests and to dominate and control its whole economy, that Government is justified in enacting any laws it thinks proper to safeguard its own commercial interests and to free its economy from foreign control. So while I hold the opinion that the stand which the Government of Iran has taken on the basis of the newly enacted nationalization law is wrong, I am also of the view that the Government of Iran will be completely justified if they first pay back to the Anglo-Iranian Oil Company the capital which it has invested in this concern and then take possession of the oil wells.

My contention is that if a country is justified in trying to win its political freedom, it is equally justified in trying to win economic freedom in its own territory. The fact that the British Government is taking keen interest in the present quarrel and that it is also a shareholder of the Company lends great weight to the suggestion that the Anglo-Iranian Oil Company is not a purely commercial concern and that among its share-holders are individuals who are directly connected with the political affairs of their own country and being so are likely to be interested in the political affairs of Iran. These individuals are foreigners in Iran and their interference in the affairs of that country is calculated to injure its political interests and international relations. The Iranian Government, therefore, has every right to break its contract with the said Company and take possession of the oil-fields. But as it had, of its own accord, given the said Company the right to use these oil-wells, it is bound to pay back their invested capital. It is not proper on any ground whatever first to send a person, assign to him some work and then deprive him of his earnings. A country may, on political grounds, confiscate the private property of its nationals (though Islam does not allow this but to invite foreigners to invest their capital in one's country and then to confiscate their possessions is, apart from being disallowed by Islam, not justified in the interests of the peace of the world. So if the Government of Iran chooses to take possession of the estates of the Anglo-Iranian Oil Company by paying them proper compensation or making other fair and proper adjustments then, in the view of my above-mentioned argument, it has every right to do so (from newspapers it appears that the Iranian Government is prepared to pay proper compensation.) In that case we will agree with her in taking such a step and will be prepared to give her all moral support. We will even be prepared to make

any legitimate sacrifice that may be demanded of us to help the Government of Iran to enforce her legal rights.

THE BASIC QUESTION

But this dispute about the oil-wells between the Government of Iran and the Anglo-Iranian Oil Company has no relation whatever to the basic question, viz., whether we can come to an understanding with Communism or Western Democracy, because in the matter of exploiting other countries and treating them in a high-handed manner both are equally to be blamed. How Russia behaved towards Eastern Germany, China, Korea, Rumania, Poland, Czechoslovakia and Finland is no secret. Does the forcible occupation of a country and extracting from its parliament unwilling statements in its own favor entitle another country to its possession? At present the Western democratic powers seek only economic exploitation of Eastern countries, but Russia aims at political along with economic and religious exploitation. Can we forget the dreadful happenings in Azerbaijan? Did they take place in opposition to the policy and direction of the Russian Government? Were the happenings in Greece and in Czechoslovakia without Russian knowledge and instigation? We would be suffering from a most serious misconception if we thought that the attitude and behavior of Russia and Western Democratic powers towards Eastern countries differed in any material respect. When both are equally our enemies and both seek to exploit us we will naturally decide to side with that party which at least does not hold God, our Creator and Master, to scorn and does not try to make us deny and disown Him. We are at complete liberty to preach the Message of Islam in America. This has resulted in hundreds of Americans becoming Muslim. Recently the death took place of my mother, the highly respected spouse of the Holy Founder of the Ahmadiyya Movement. Of the many condolatory tributes I received on this sad occasion there was one from a newly converted White American Muslim. He is an officer in the American Army stationed in Germany. In this letter among other things he writes "When I read in the Bible, 'Woman, mine hour is not yet come' (John 2:4), addressed by Jesus Christ to his mother, and then my mind travels back 1350 years to Arabia and I see the Holy Prophet of Islam standing at the grave of his mother with eyes full of tears and invoking divine mercy on her, I see a world of difference between the teaching of Islam and that of

Christianity. One is in perfect harmony with human nature and the other is against it." How wonderful is this spontaneous expression about Islam. It throws a flood of light on his love of Islam and the Holy Prophet. Can we meet with such noble souls in Russia?

A PROPOSAL TO THE COMMUNISTS

I always confront Communists who come to see me with this proposal: Let two or three of my representatives with one of their representatives visit Russia. The party should be allowed to move about freely in the country and see things for themselves. They should be allowed without let or hindrance to visit Muslims in their homes and mosques and see for themselves how many of them say their prayers and like good Muslims conform to the tenets and ordinances of Islam, and how many of them can and do read the Holy Quran. I would bear the expenses of such a tour. A similar free tour of America and England may also be conducted and those touring these countries should also see for themselves how far Islam is free in those countries. The Communist friends never agree to this very simple proposal. They only meet it with complete silence and the shrugging of shoulders, thus masking their mental discomfiture. They do not come to see me again.

I place this proposal before my honorable Iranian friend also. He holds a very high and respectable position in his country and he lives near the Russian border. There are also to be found many very highly placed Russian representatives in Iran. Let them send one of their representatives in Pakistan with my representatives to Russia. They should be allowed to move about the country freely as my representatives move about freely in America, England and France. Only my representatives may be allowed to talk to Russian Muslims in private, the Communist representative then leaving them alone. The rest of the tour may be conducted by the two parties together. Though I have no political status in America or England, yet I can promise permission for such a tour. I know the laws of these countries and I know also that when they give our representatives a tourist passport they will place no obstacles in the way of such a tour. I am sure they will be allowed free access to all places of interest and see things for themselves with the exception, of course, of military secrets, which are rightly regarded as sacrosanct in Russia as in other countries and which need not be inspected.

This is the only criterion by which the real conditions prevailing in Communist and non-Communist countries can be rightly gauged and tested. The rest is mere jugglery of words by which people can be easily misled and made to believe anything.

THE CHOICE BETWEEN COMMUNISM AND DEMOCRACY

Certainly I should not be understood to mean that Western countries treat us like brothers. Most assuredly they are exploiting Muslim countries. He who dares say that their interference in the political affairs and trade interests of these countries is out of sympathetic motives is either a fool or a knave. In spite of their friendly professions we shall continue to fight them till Muslim countries throw off their yoke and gain full liberty. But despite all this when we have to choose between Communism and Western Democracy we shall choose the latter because Western Democracy gives us religious freedom but Communism does not and also because Western Democratic countries seem to have completed their decreed span of life and have grown old and decrepit and are about to end their days. America, no doubt, is young and vigorous but America does not seek political domination, but only economic and financial domination. Compared with Western Democracy, Communism is young and determined to keep us enslaved for several hundred years to come. We would be veritable fools if we choose to exchange enslavement to an old and dying master with enslavement to a strong and stout youth. The old man will die in a short time but the young man will rule over us for many long years to come. Let him who prefers his chains of slavery to continue for a long time choose a young man for his master. I, for one, will try to break the chains which bind me to the old master but will refuse to accept the assistance of the young slave-dealer who offers me help in freeing myself from the old slave-driver so that I may become his slave instead.

I know it for certain that Islam shall win in the long run and I know also that anti-Islamic countries have already ruled over and kept us in chains for too long. God's jealousy has become excited and the dominion of the greatest and noblest of all the Prophets of God, Muhammad, (peace and blessings of God be upon him) shall now be established in the world. The enemies of God shall be destroyed and extirpated, no matter how many nations offer to help and support them. We shall not give up God and no wordly considerations

shall make us come to terms with His enemies. Our God is our greatest wealth and we shall never part with this Wealth. We shall break the chains that hold our country in slavery and shall accept no bondage but that of God. We shall not cut our own nose to spite the face of our enemy. We are convinced that in this way we shall win complete freedom for our countries and shall also keep our nose intact.

For all their military might and material wealth, England and America shall one day be compelled to submit to the spiritual power of Islam. This is God's decree. The day is sure to come when, putting aside their spirit of bargaining, the Americans will extend to us their hand of love and peace, nay the hand of belief and brotherliness. That indeed will be a blessed day for mankind and an auspicious hour. Our God will again take His seat on the Throne of His Glory and Majesty and again the flag of our Noble Prophet will fly high in the air. The Message of Peace and Goodwill that the Holy Prophet gave to the world shall spread again to the ends of earth and find place in the hearts of men. The accusing tongues of his enemies shall be silenced. They shall confess to their mortification that they had failed to cast dust at God's exalted Messenger and His Elect and shall repent of their evil deeds. May that day dawn in our own lives and may I and my honorable Iranian friend be spared to witness it! How blessed will be that day and how happy that hour!

AN APPEAL TO THE WEST

In the end I draw the attention of the peoples of the West, especially that of educated Americans and political thinkers, that they should effect a change in their views and attitude towards Islamic countries. That highly respectable Iranian leader to whose letter I have referred above is no fire-eating stormy petrel but a seasoned and experienced gentleman and is regarded as a sane leader of moderate views in his own country. His letter indicates that the exploitation and victimization of Eastern nations by the peoples of the West have wounded the hearts of the former and hurt their national self-respect in the extreme. Let Western peoples realize that it is high time they make new friends and not make new enemies. The Muslims of Iran, Palestine, Egypt, Tunis, Algeria and that of Morocco will not take lying down the inhuman treatment that is being meted out to them in these countries. The humiliating state of enslavement to which they have remained

subject for a long time was the result of their own negligence, ignorance and their lack of self-respect. But the changes that are now following in the wake of Communism unmistakably show that Muslims whom God had deprived of their sword are destined to win back their freedom by another people's sword.

My American friends! Look to the pointing finger of God and do not ignore it. Palestine, no doubt, is very weak, and so are Egypt, Iran, Tunis, Algeria and Morocco, but know it for certain, Ye believers in Jesus Christ, that God, the Creator and Master of the Universe, is not weak. Where are they who put Jesus on the cross? How humiliating and disgraceful it is for the Jews that they are today entering Palestine with the help which they solicited with folded hands from the followers of him whom they sought to kill by putting him on the cross! Does not this fact constitute a great lesson for any one who may pause and think? Are not the Jews being crucified today on the cross of their national honor and self-respect for the heinous crime which their forefathers committed many centuries ago? Do you wish to see the same miracle repeated? Just think about your own countries. Would you like your people to be subjected to the same inhuman and cruel treatment which is being meted out to Muslims in Egypt, Palestine, Tunis, Algeria and Morocco? If not, then why have you forgotten the noble saying of your Master Jesus Christ, *viz.* "And as ye would that men should do to you, do ye also to them likewise" (*Luke 6:31*). Know that time has taken a critical turn. Come and join us to save the honor of God and His religion and the peace of your own countries.

May God open your eyes and may He give us the power and opportunity to work together for the achievement of that great and noble goal about which the prophets of God have been prophesying for centuries past.

Mirza. B. Ashiruddin
Mahmud Ahmad

July, 1952

THE AHMADIYYA MOVEMENT IN ISLAM

The American Fazl Mosque

2141 Leroy Place, N. W.

Washington, D. C.

U. S. A.

